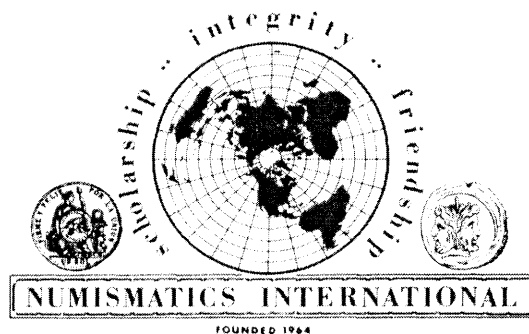


39 Years of service to numismatics

May 2004



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INSIDE N.I.

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Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by July 1, 2004, the membership will become effective on that date.

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Joseph R. Dunbar, W. Prentice Circle, Littleton, CO 80123-0668
Renato A. Adapon, 306 Harold St., Staton Island, NY 10314

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Library has received from NI member Kenneth M. MacKenzie an extensive collection of 35mm slides of Ottoman (and related) coins and medals based upon his collection. These are available to any NI member researching this field.

Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr., Book Librarian
James D. Haley, Periodical Librarian

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

As you may have noted in the announcement in the April 2004 BULLETIN, our Editor Marvin Fraley has resigned for health reasons. For now, Publications Chairman, John E. Vandigriff, will take over the BULLETIN editor's duties. All communications relating to the BULLETIN and submissions for publication in the BULLETIN should be sent to him at: 190 N. Stemmons Frwy., Suite 200, Lewisville, Texas 75067, or by email: jhnvan@comcast.net.

It has been some time since we last made an appeal to the membership for help with items to publish. Our supply of articles has dwindled in the last few months with practically nothing new coming in, other than items from our regular contributors. Many of you said that you would contribute articles for publication when you made your initial application for membership in NI. However, only a few members have come through with items for publication.. The driving force behind the *NI Bulletin* since its inaugural edition in February 1967 has been the continued support of the membership in contribution of articles for publication. Let's continue this tradition in the years ahead. If you have not contributed anything recently, we challenge you to come through with your original promise of submitting items for publication. We are always in need of material of different subject matter to have a wide range of topics in each issue.

2 REALES 1765 FROM MEXICO CIRCULATING AS 60 PARAS IN THE IONIAN ISLANDS

Georg H. Förster, Frankenthal, Germany, NI #2584

With the end of the Republic of Venice in 1797 the Venetians – after nearly 300 years – also lost control over the Ionian Islands which were ceded to France. In 1798/99 the island of Corfu was occupied by Turkish and Russian troops.

In the treaty of Constantinople (1800) Turkey and Russia confirmed the foundation of the “Republic of the Seven Islands” (Corfu, Paxos, Kefallinia, Ithaca, Lefkas, Zakynthos and Kithira) under Russian control. The peace treaty of Tilsit in 1807 returned the islands to France.

In 1809 the British occupied Zakynthos, Kefallinia and Ithaca. They further took islands in 1810, and in 1814 also Corfu.

In 1815 the Congress of Vienna created the “United States of the Ionian Islands” under the protectorate of Great Britain, a protectorate which should continue up to 1863.

When the British occupied the Ionian Islands the circulating coins were Turkish Paras and Piasters, but also Colonnatos di Spagna (Spanish Pillar Dollars) were used. 48 Para equaled 1 Piaster, 220 Para equaled 1 Colonnato di Spagna.

During the occupation time the British imported Spanish Dollars for the maintenance of their troops. However, most of these silver coins left the islands in payment for import requirements nearly as quick as they arrived. Even minor silver coins from Sicily, Naples and other locations disappeared from circulation. Debased and nearly worthless Turkish Paras remained as circulating media, unacceptable as change for a holder of silver dollars.

In 1813 Lt. General James Campbell came to Zakynthos as commander of the occupation troops and also the highest authority for the civil administration of the islands.

When he was informed about the critical payment situation he acted immediately. He ordered the importation of minor silver coins from Sicily, prohibited their re-exportation and had all these coins checked and then countermarked with the numbers 25, 30, 50 and 60 in a square frame, representing their value in Turkish Para, viz. 25, 30, 50 and 60.

When imitations of these countermarks appeared, Campbell ordered the preparation of a larger and oval countermark bearing the bust of King George with the same denominational figures as before but slightly larger.

A small press was imported from Sicily, all silver coins with the first countermark were recalled, revised and struck with the new countermark punch, certainly more difficult to imitate. The whole action took place in 1813.

In 1821 the first parliament of the “United States of the Ionian Islands” decided in favor of a new decimal currency system. The Spanish silver Dollar, divided in 100 Oboli was taken as standard.

The countermarked silver coins of 1813 were withdrawn from circulation and disappeared accordingly. Relatively few countermarked coins have survived, most of them worn so smooth, that the undercoin cannot be identified. However, pieces from Sicily, Naples and Spain have been detected over the years as undercoins as it was the case with the two examples in the Fonrobert Collection (1), where both coins were attributed to Haiti.

The somewhat crude image of King George III was interpreted as the bust of Jacques Dessaliens, who was leading a Haitian rebellion against the French in 1804.

Georg F. Ulex from Hamburg had bought both coins from Fonrobert and when the Ulex Collection was sold in 1908 both the coins were attributed to Haiti again (2).

Two years later the examples of Dr. Jules Meili were also listed under Haiti interpreting the countermarks “25” and “30” as 25 Centimes and 30 Centimes (3).

In 1914 Howland Wood also attributed these countermarks to Haiti (4), however in 1935 he changed to the Ionian Islands (5), following an 1884 publication by Paul Lambros.

In 1959/1960 Howard D. Gibbs (6) and F. Pridmore (7) confirmed the attribution to the Ionian Islands. F. Pridmore pointed out that Frisk P. Brewer, American Consul in Piraeus, Greece, had informed as early as 1877 in the *American Journal of Numismatics* about the real origin of these countermarks, the Ionian Islands.

In 1966, Hans M. F. Schulman, New York, declared the Ionian Islands countermarked coins in the Howard D. Gibbs collection (8) again as of Haitian origin according the Lacombe (9).

When the author searched for Ionian Islands coins in London, he was told: “The Ionian Islands countermarked coins do not appear very often and are keenly fought over when they do.”



The 60 Paras illustrated above has both the first countermark in a rectangle on obverse and the second countermark in an oval on the reverse. The undercoin is also fully identifiable: 2 Reales 1765 of Carolus III (pillar type) with the motto UTRAQUE UNUM, the mintmark Mo for Mexico and the assayers initial M (= Manuel Assorin).

The coin appeared as part of lot Nr. 561 of Dr. Busso Peus Nachf. Auction on April 27-29, 2000. The coin was described but not attributed. Nevertheless the lot was keenly fought over.

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- (4) Howland Wood: "The Coinage of the Westindies", published in the *American Journal of Numismatics*, Vol. XLVIII (1914), fig. 112.
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- (6) Howard D. Gibbs: "Necessity Coins of the Ionian Islands", published in *The Numismatist*, February 1959.
- (7) F. Pridmore: "Note on Colonial Coins, Ionian Islands", published in *The Numismatic Circular*, April, 1960.
- (8) Auction Howard D. Gibbs Collection, Hans M. F. Schulman, New York, March 1966.
- (9) Robert Lacombe: *Histoire monetaire de Saint-Domingue et de la Republique d'Haiti*, Paris 1958.

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JAMES WATT, MATTHEW BOULTON AND THE “CARTWHEEL COINAGE”

Ross Schraeder, Aubrey, Texas, NI #LM-2

The British inventor and engineer James Watt, 1736 to 1819, made fundamental improvements to the Newcomer steam engine, which resulted in the modern high-pressure steam engine that he patented in 1769.

Matthew Boulton, born at Birmingham in 1728, and having understood the great potential of Watt’s steam engine, spent most of his life trying to apply steam power to various industrial processes of the time. Already a well known manufacturer, in 1762 he established a foundry and machine shop, the Soho works, at Hadsworth near Birmingham. In 1777, Boulton entered into a partnership with Watt to further exploit steam power.

As early as 1772, Boulton campaigned for better coinage, having learned from his trade that significant improvements could be made. By 1786, he had the latest technology coining presses set up in his factory, but they were not steam powered. With these, he produced some excellent coins for the East India Company. Two years later, in 1778, he again teamed with Watt to develop a steam powered coining press at the Soho foundry. During that year and the ones that followed he tried to sell his coining method to the crown, but without success. By 1790 he had a steam engine running eight presses at a rate of up to 150 coins per minute, depending on size, for customers other than the English Government. He produced a number of patterns for both pennies and half pennies. Finally in 1797, the government agreed to let him coin a penny and a twopence.



Great Britain 2 Pence 1797, Copper

The coins were struck in copper and the intrinsic value of the copper in the coins roughly corresponded to their actual face value. The penny and the twopence contained one and two ounces (avoirdupois) of copper respectively. That’s over twice the weight of a U.S. silver dollar for the twopence. The necessarily large size of the twopence (1.61 inches in diameter and 0.21 inches thick) to contain two ounces of copper, along with its unusually wide raised rim, led to the term “Cartwheel”. The

issue's wide raised rim made it wear extremely well, but the excessive weight and soft pure copper composition made it very susceptible to rim dents. Yet further, the size and weight rendered both of the coins unwieldy.

The two pence was minted one year. It was the first and last twopence copper every officially minted for England. The copper penny, also a first, was minted for two or three more years, but continued to carry the date 1797. The final demise of the series was the rising value of copper, resulting in much of both denominations being melted down. However, because of their exact weights, the coins continued to be used as weights by shopkeepers for many years.



Great Britain, Penny, 1797

Both coins carried the same design. The obverse featured a bust of king George III, draped rather than in armor, as had been the custom on the time. At the base of the bust is the letter “K” standing for Kuchler, the engraver. The inscription incused and on the rim, also a first, reads “GEORGIUS III · D : G · REX., which translates “George III by the Grace of God King”.

The reverse shows Britannia, who for the first time, is transformed into a symbol of Britain's ever increasing maritime power by the substitution of a trident for a spear and waves with a small ship at her feet. The mint SOHO is shown in small letters just below the shield. The inscription is again incused, “BRITANNIA” across the top and “1797” at the bottom.

The coins were the first regal coins to be struck by steam power. Each being perfectly round and their craftsmanship so good that counterfeiting was essentially eliminated. A halfpence and farthing of the same series were also struck, but of reduced weight and only as patterns. The legacy of the series was a method of coining that lasted for over a century and a standard of workmanship that rivals that of modern coins.

CASINO TOKENS FROM SOUSSE, TUNISIA

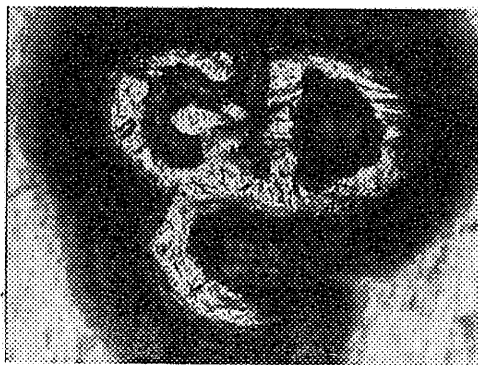
Paul Baker

The first token of Tunisia I ever acquired was a machine token of the Casino Caraibe in the city of Sousse. This casino is managed by Casino Resources Corp. who are listed on the New York Stock Exchange. Sousse is very much tourist-oriented and the casino and the “casino resort” it forms part of are all very much geared towards the tourist. Tunisian residents are not allowed to make use of the gaming facilities but are allowed to make use of the other facilities available – namely the Las Vegas style entertainment in the 500 seat theatre.



My 0.05 Dinar token from Casino Caraibe in Sousse, Tunisia.

There are four denominations of tokens known for this casino, they are 0.05, 0.25, 1 and 5 Dinars. The palm tree, casino name and casino location seen on the first side of the token form the logo of the Casino Caraibe.

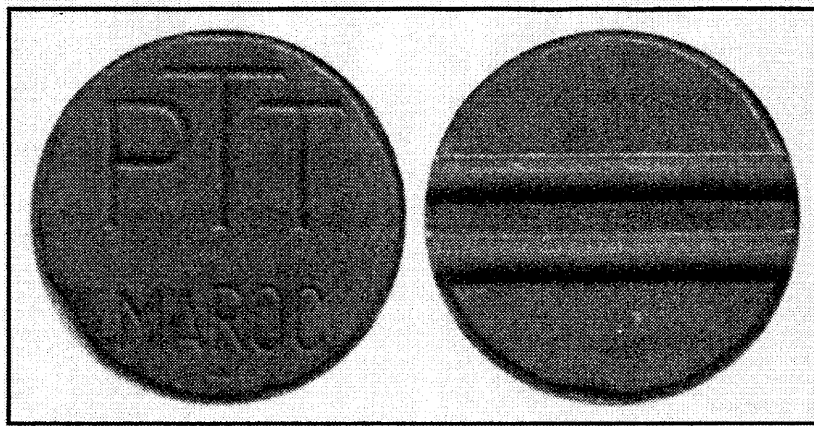


A close-up of the “GDC” mint mark on the Casino Caraibe token.

Reminding us of this casino’s link with the U.S.A. is a small mint mark on the first side of the token. This is the “GDC” logo of the now closed private U.S. mint GDC Casino Tokens (formerly Green Duck Corp. – hence the initials). This mint closed in June 1999, the Casino Caraibe opened in October 1997. Therefore, my token was likely made during this period or in the period approaching the opening date in 1997. A large number of U.S. gaming token types are known with this “GDC” mint mark.

A TELEPHONE TOKEN OF MOROCCO

Paul Baker, NI #2615



“PTT MAROC” telephone token of Morocco

Notice on the image, on the obverse, the cornucopia privy mark of Monnaie de Paris, it is just below the letter “R”. I have a few recent French tokens with this privy mark, some pieces with a pair of these. On coins made by Monnaie de Paris the cornucopia privy mark is always accompanied by a privy mark for the Engraver General (e.g. in recent years - dolphin, bee or horseshoe).

On the reverse of the token there are two round-bottomed vertical grooves. Quite a number of telephone tokens (and other machine tokens) from other parts of the world also have grooves, some have round-bottomed grooves and others flat-bottomed ones. (I have seen tokens with “V”-bottomed grooves too, but not telephone tokens.) Only tokens have grooves of any sort and never coins - so grooves are an easy way for discriminator mechanisms to distinguish between coins and tokens - and size, shape, spacing and number of grooves are a useful way for the mechanisms to distinguish between one type of token and another. Grooves, of course, cannot be struck onto a coin - too much material would require to be displaced - it would seem that grooves are normal cast (and occasionally formed). The grooves on the PTT MAROC tokens go nearly halfway through the thickness of the token, most grooved tokens I have seem to have grooves very close to half the token thickness. The token has a diameter of 23.6mm and is made from Bronze.

A NEW “BAKLR-NIKEL” COIN FROM THE MINT IN ISTANBUL

Up to the end of 2003 the highest value in the regular coinage was the 250,000 lira in circulation since 2002. Now the mint (Darphane) has issued a bakir-nikel coin with a value of 1,000,000 lira to commemorate the foundation of the Mint in 1467. The building appears on the obverse, and on the reverse a central circle has the numeral “12” with January 2004. (In WWI the 100 Lira gold coin was equal to £1.)

(Submitted by Kenneth MacKenzie)

COINS OF FRANKISH GREECE

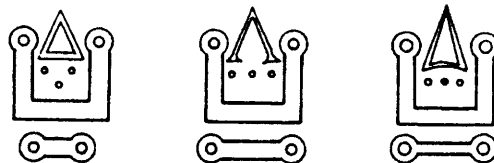
John E. Vandigriff, HLM

During the Fourth Crusade, Constantinople was conquered, and a Latin emperor and a Latin patriarch were set up in Constantinople. The conquering force was composed principally of French Barons and Venetians. The French Barons set up fiefs in the Greek peninsular. A number of fiefs were set up, but the two principal ones were the Duchy of Athens and the Principality of Achaia (Morea).

The Principality of Achaia was originally a fief of Boniface of Montferret, and was granted to William of Champlette, but by 1209 was held direct from the Latin emperor by Geoffroy deVillehardouin with the title of prince. Latin princes of Achaia were:

William II of Villehardouin	1246-78
Charles I of Anjou , King of Sicily	1278-85
Charles II of Anjou King of Sicily	1285-89
Florent of Hainaut, 2nd husband of Isabel	1289-97
Isabel of Villehardouin	1297-1301
Philip of Savoy	1301-07
Philip of Taranto	1307-13

Deniers Tournois were issued by each of these princes. The designs of of the deniers were all similar, a cross centrally located with a marginal inscription on one side and a chatel centrally located enclosed, in a marginal inscription. There are variations in the chatel designs. Three such designs are shown below.



The various styles of châtel on Achaian Tournois

Examples of Inscriptions are:

•✠• G•PRINCEPS / :✠: CLARENTIA
 Includes variant with :✠: and N, N
 •✠• G•PRINCEPS / ,:✠:: CLARENTIA
 •✠• G•PRINCEPS / @✠@ CLARENTIA
 :✠: G•PRINCEPS / @✠@CLARENTIA

The duchy of Athens (Attica and Boeotia) was granted as a fief by Boniface of Montferret to Otto de La Roche whose family kept it until 1308. During the period of 1280-1308 silver coins are know to have been issued by William I de la Roche and Guy II de la Roche. Prior to the earliest Athenian tournois, Achaian billion coins circulated.

TURKISH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY 35TH ANNIVERSARY

Türk Nümismatik Derneği marked their 35th anniversary with the publication of a special monograph on Mesrur Izzet Bey. (A supplement to their forty Bulletins published since its formation in 1968 in Istanbul.)

Who is Mesrur Izzet? He was a sculptor born in 1873 and died in 1852. He graduated from the old Fine Arts Academy (now Mimar Sinan University) in Istanbul in 1895.

Beside sculpture he worked in painting (oil and water), modeling in coins, medals and stamps, carving and art repairing. He also worked in porcelain arts in the Yildiz Factory where he became its director in 1914.

Among the many contests he won, his pride was the creation of the Medal of Independence in 1923 (the year the Republic of Turkey was born and the Ottoman Empire became history). Being the only official medal in Turkey it was worn by Kemal Ataturk (the founder of the Republic) and by people who joined the war for independence with him.

His arts samples can be found in museums in Turkey and abroad and are well catalogued in the book written by Celil Ender (ISSN 1302-3004).

He was an avid collector of antiques, stamps, post cards, rocks and fossils, a truly interesting life of a distinguished Turkish numismatist.

(Submitted by Kenneth M. MacKenzie)

.....

The London Playboy Club, forcibly closed by the British Gaming authorities in 1981 following the "Casino Wars" can boast the most valuable gambling "chip" in the world! When Mr. Lownes opened the club on 28th June 1966 (with 1500 invited guests) he had a special gambling "chip" made for publicity purposes. It was a £100,000 gold plaque with the figures embedded into the gold in diamonds. To his surprise the Petro-dollar Arab millionaires were soon buying it and cashing it back in so many times that he had to have plastic £100,000 chips made to meet the demand.

Even more astounding was that the price of gold suddenly went up and Lownes found that his £100,000 gold plaque had gone up in value to £200,000!

With the British Government seriously considering relaxing gaming regulations to allow Las Vegas style gambling, the Playboy Club thought of opening again.

In the spring of 2000 they started a joint project between Playboy Enterprises and Ladbroke (their main adversary during the Casino Wars!). The owner of Ladbroke clearly did not approve, and the whole idea came to an abrupt halt when he sold Ladbroke to Gala Ltd., who were not in the least interested in operating a casino under the Playboy name. (Submitted by Colin Narbeth)

JEWELLERY COINS FROM PRAGUE

Bob Forrest, Manchester, England, NI #2382

On a recent trip to Prague, whilst wandering through the wonderful Old Town Square there, I came across a young couple who were producing die-struck copies in brass of the silver and gold coins of medieval Prague. Unlike their British and American counterparts, such as Dave Greenhalgh in England (1) and Greg Franck-Weiby in the USA (2), who produce die-struck fantasy coins as souvenirs of historical pageants, or as trade-tokens for spending in markets at living history exhibitions, this Prague couple were producing their direct copies for jewellery purposes. I bought two specimens of their handiwork, as illustrated below.



Fig. 1

The first (Fig. 1) has an obverse depicting the king holding an orb and sceptre, with legend KAROLVS DEI GRACIA, with a reverse depicting the characteristic lion of Bohemia, with legend ROMANORVM ET BOEMIE REX. Taking the two legends together, then, we have: "Charles, by the Grace of God, King of the Romans and of Bohemia."



Fig. 2

The second coin (Fig. 2) has an obverse with a crown at its centre, with legend KAROLVS PRIMVS DEI GRATIA REX BOEMIE (= Charles the First, by the Grace

of God King of Bohemia) and a reverse with a Bohemian lion and legend GROSSI PRAGENSES (= groschen or groats of Prague).

Both coins relate to Charles IV of Luxembourg (1316-1378), who, from 1346 until his death was Charles I of Bohemia (hence KAROLVS PRIMVS in Fig. 2) and Holy Roman Emperor (hence ROMANORVM in Fig. 1). He is generally recognised as one of the greatest sovereigns of his time, and it was under his rule that Prague became the political, economic and cultural hub of the Holy Roman Empire - hence, I presume, the choice of these particular coins as the basis for jewellery items.

Had these coins been simple jewellery copies I might well not have bothered doing this write-up of them, but there is an extra dimension to their story which gives them added interest. Readers will notice that the coin in Fig. 1 has one suspension hole, whereas that in Fig. 2 has two. In fact, if you look closely at Fig. 2 you will see that there is a deliberately produced crack or cut running down the middle of the coin. This coin is, in fact, made to be broken in half, one suspension hole to each half. The idea is that the two halves of the coin can be worn by two friends or lovers as a symbol of their unity (3). Coins pre-split to be broken into three or even four parts were also to be had to symbolise more numerous personal inter-relationships.

So, should you ever find, lurking in some future junk-box, part of a brass copy of a coin of Charles IV of Luxembourg, neatly holed for suspension, you now know its story.

Notes.

- (1) See "Forgeries, Fantasies and Replicas IV" in *NI Bulletin*, January 1995, p.12-13.
- (2) Greg Franck-Weiby's fantasy coins range from a bronze Byzantine-style follis of St. Hildegard to an imitation of a silver "long cross" penny of Henry III of England. All are identifiable by the IC monogram (Ⓘ) which appears on them, this standing for Greg's moneyer's nom-de-plume, Ian Cnulle.
- (3) For broken coins as love-tokens or symbols of betrothal in 17th-18th century England, see Lloyd L. Entenmann, *Love Tokens as Engraved Coins* (1991), p.11-12.

“PENNY”

The first reference to the term “Penny” is in the laws of Ine (c.688-695). However, these laws are only known from a transcript written at the time of Alfred the Great, king of Wessex (871-899), so the name could have been altered, in which case the first reference to the denomination penny is in a will of 833 or 835. Old English, Anglo-Saxon, spelling of the word was pening, pending, or penning. Whatever the spelling, it is most certainly of Germanic language origin. The German denomination pfennig undoubtedly has the same origin.

The English silver penny was introduced around the time of Offa of Mercia (757-796) and remained the principal denomination of England for the next 500 years. It remained in use as a silver coin for use in commerce for another 500 years, and indeed as Maundy money today. The denomination in silver has lasted over 1200 years in all.

NOTES ON EARLY JAPANESE COINAGE

John E. Vandigriff HLN

Modern Japanese coinage began with the Meiji Era. By “Modern”, it is meant that the coins were struck, and are different from the previous coins that were of the cast “cash” type, or were square or rectangular. There were three monetary units: the Rin, the Sen and the Yen. There were 10 Rin to the Sen, and 100 Sen to the Yen. The Yen is the only unit now in use in Japan.

Each coin has a legend showing that the coin is from Japan, the Imperial Era, the year of that Era, and the denomination. The Imperial Era is sometimes found in conjunction with the year of the coin and sometimes separated from the year. For example, Y75, 50 Yen, has the Era above the “50” and the year under the “50”, while Y76, 50 Yen, has the Era and the year together. The year is not expressed in Christian years as on many coins, but is designated by the year of the Imperial Era. A coin of the Showa Era 7th year is the year 1932. In determining the Christian year, the year on the coin is not added to the year the Era started. For example, the Meiji Era started in 1868, but the Meiji 3rd year is not 1871, it is 1870. This results from the fact that the year that the Era begins is the first year; therefore 1868 is the 1st year, 1869 is the 2nd year and 1870 is the 3rd year.

Japanese numbers are not hard to read once you know the system. Numbers 1 to 10 are the actual numbers. After that you just look at the number and either add, multiply or both. The number 15 has a 10 (十) by a five (五). In this case you add the 5 to the 10. The number 25 is 二 十 五, that is a 2, a 10, and a 5. You have two tens and a five. Therefore, to determine a number between 10 and 99, all you have to do is find the 10, multiply it by the number that precedes it, and add the product to the number that follows it.

It should be noted that all legends were read right to left until 1948. After that year, the legends are read left to right.

IMPERIAL ERAS

明治

MEIJI
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CONTEMPORARY COUNTERFEITS, A DOCUMENT OF HISTORY THE COUNTERFEIT DIRHAMS OF MOROCCO 1283-1291H

Marc Pelletier

(Reprinted from as-Sikka (السكة) The Online Journal of the Islamic Coins Group, Summer 2001AD)

Twenty five years ago, at the time that I was collecting coins in Morocco, contemporary counterfeits seemed to me nothing more than a curiosity. Lately, their trading value in catalogues is sometimes near or above the value of their genuine counterparts (1). It is only in the last year that I have discovered how much those little pieces document, through their very existence, the period when they appeared. This, in my opinion, much more than true coins (2).

As you know, contemporary counterfeits were produced in the same years as true coins. They were mostly well made, but with a more base metal. These pieces were used to pay for goods in the same period as the official coins. How can we explain the sudden advent in Morocco of contemporary counterfeits in a very short period? The following story of these pieces (silvering hammered copper and brass pieces), dated 1283-91 H / 1866-74 AD, should shed some light on this question. That approach is interesting because it can be applied to other periods and no doubt to other countries.

In 1276 H / 1859 AD, Spain was at war with Morocco. Spanish invaded northern Morocco and took control of Tetouan, near the Mediterranean sea. At the end of this war, some month later, a peace treaty between the parties stipulated that Morocco would pay Spain twenty million douros, in exchange, Spain would evacuate from the territory of Morocco and leave Tetouan. Two months later, Morocco paid 25% of this sum to Spain, but the monetary resources were drained at this time. Two years later, as a result of borrowing two million douros from Great Britain, Morocco was able to pay another 25% of this debt, and the Spanish accepted to evacuate Tetouan.

Morocco was then completely ruined financially and it took twenty five years to pay the remaining debt to Spain and Great Britain. For this, the States was obliged for many years to sacrifice 75% of its income and to double the taxes on its people.

In 1283 H / 1866 AD, the sultan, driven more by religious doctrine or his own glory than financial prudence, had the idea of changing the weight of the dirham from 1.954g to 2.931g (legal weight). This was a bad decision because of the poor state of the economy and because the weight of the dirham was then 14% higher than the weight of 5 francs and 5 pesetas. During the same period of time, from 1283-85 H, Morocco was infested by a locust invasion, and many suffered some disease and starvation.



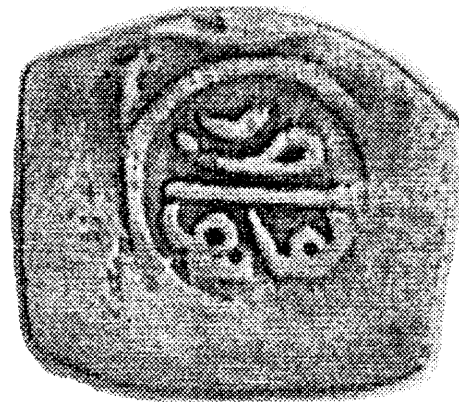
Coins of 1284 H :

At left: Silver dirham, 1284 H, mint of Fes, 2.8g.

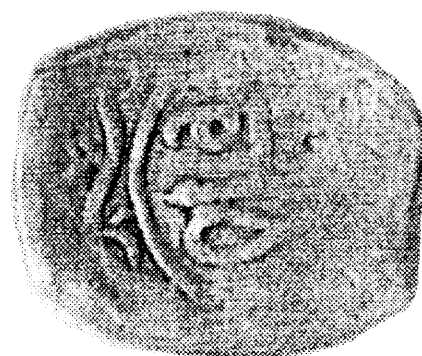
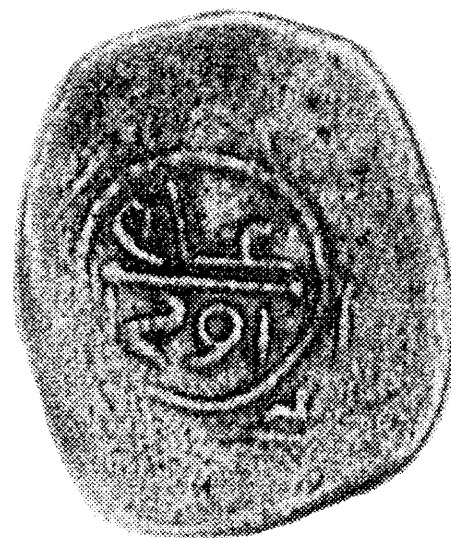
At right: Brass contemporary counterfeit, 1284 H, Fes, 2.38g.

Between 1283 and 1291 H counterfeit coins started appearing. These “dirhams” were counterfeited by silvering hammered copper and brass pieces. Copper was produced in the “Sous” region, in the southern part of Morocco, while brass came from Europe, Tanger (Morocco) and also Algeria. At the same time many dirhams were melted for silver or hoarded.

It is possible to conclude then, that war, economic ruin, poverty, and the devaluation of the monetary system were the causes that precipitated contemporary counterfeiting. The surviving counterfeit coins are silent messengers that tell a piece of Morocco’s history.



A Brass contemporary counterfeit, 1289 H, Fes, 3.0g.
 “Contemporary counterfeit of 1289 H, Fes, attest to the existence of
 dirham from this year, though none have been recorded to date”. (Eustache 1984)



At left: Silver dirham, 1291 H, Fes, 2.4g.
 At right: Brass contemporary counterfeit, 1291 H, Fes, 2.96g.

- (1) “Liste à prix fixe #42”, A. Poinson, Strasbourg 1977
- (2) “Corpus des Monnaies Alawites”, Daniel Eustache, Banque du Maroc, Rabat 1984.

Mutt and Jeff at the Swap Shop Again in 2004

Bronze medal – Andreas Hofer 90th Anniversary of 1809 Rebellion, 1899 AE Bearded bust of national hero Andreas Hofer (1767-1810), Leader of the Tirol Rebellion of 1809; wearing *gold medal*, presented by Francis II. Rev: Court Chapel at Innsbruck / 1899 in panel / The Sandwirth Inn with trees where he lies as executed on February 20, 1810. Signiture at edge under bust [*Joseph Christian*] *Christibauer* of Vienna, loop added later.



It was a cool morning; Mutt and Jeff had made arrangements to meet at the Swap Shop at 7:00 AM. This would be the first time on a Thursday since before Christmas. Both Mutt and Jeff were eager to get back to their weekly adventures at the flea market. At first there were not a lot of dealers set up (too cold! And it is Florida remember), but when they headed to the new section of the lot, there were rows and rows of garage sale dealers.

Nothing of interest in coins or numismatic items. When we did see something, they either were junk foreign coins or over priced U.S.

Then Mutt found a medal. Jeff did not think it was worth the asking price, but Mutt likes medals and the chance to research them, using the Internet, so he bought it. At the top of this article is the description and photos of an 1899 bronze medal minted in Vienna.

Now to tell the rest of the story. ANDRES HOFER - A patriot and soldier, born at St. Leonhard in Passeyrthale, Tyrol, 22 Nov., 1767; executed at Mantua, 20 Feb., 1810. His father was known as the *Sandwirth*, i. e., landlord of the inn on the sandy spit of land formed by the Passeyr. The inn had been in the family for over one hundred years. Hofer's education was very limited. As a youth, he was engaged in the wine and horse trade, but he went farther afield, learned to know men of every class, and even acquired a knowledge of Italian that stood him in good stead later. After his marriage with Anna Ladurner, he took over his father's business, which, however, did not flourish in his hands. Gifted, though not a genius, a dashing but upright young man, loyal to his God and his sovereign, he made many friends by his straight forward character; his stately figure and flowing beard contributing in no small degree to his attractiveness.

When the Tyrol was handed over to Bavaria at the Peace of Presburg, the *Sandwirth* was among the delegates who escorted the departing Archduke John. Thenceforth he attended quietly to his own affairs until, in 1806, he was called to Vienna with others, and was informed of the proposed uprising in the Tyrol. At the outset of the rebellion he was by no means its chief, but acquired fame as a leader mainly by his capture of a Bavarian detachment in the marsh of Sterzing. Hofer was not engaged in the first capture of Innsbruck, being then an officer on the southern frontier with the title of *Imperial Royal Commandant*.

When the French broke victoriously into the Tyrol and occupied Innsbruck, he issued a general summons to the people, which roused many patriots and drew them to his standard. The fact that the enemy, underestimating the strength of the popular party, left only a small garrison of troops, favoured their cause. After various skirmishes Hofer's men broke into Innsbruck on 30 May. The real battle came off at Berg Isel. The *Sandwirth* took no part in the conflict; nevertheless he directed it with skill and success.

The Tyrol was now free from invasion for two months; indeed, a few bands of insurgents ventured into Bavarian and Italian territory. Under these conditions Hofer thought he could return to his home and leave the government in the hands of the Intendant Hormayr, who had been sent from Vienna. But when, in spite of positive assurances from the emperor, the Tyrol was abandoned at the armistice of Znaim, and Marshal Lefebvre advanced to subdue the country, the people determined to risk their lives for faith and freedom.

Again the written order of the *Sandwirth* flew round the valleys. Haspinger and Speckbacher organized the people, and on 13 and 14 August 1809, occurred the second battle of Berg Isel. Haspinger decided the result of the day; but Hofer stood for some time in the very heat of the battle, and by his energetic efforts induced the already weakening ranks to renew their efforts. Henceforth, the Intendant having fled, Hofer took the government into his own hands, moved into the Hofburg, and ruled his admiring countrymen in a patriarchal manner.

Francis II bestowed on him a golden medal, but this proved fatal to Hofer, who was thereby strengthened in his delusion that the emperor would never abandon his faithful Tyrolese. Thus it happened that he even disregarded a letter from the Archduke John, as though it were a Bavarian or French proclamation, and on 1 November 1809, lost the third battle of Berg Isel against a superior force of the enemy.

The renewed success of the French general and the Bavarian crown prince, later to become King Ludwig I, now determined Hofer to surrender; trusting however, to his friends and to false rumours, he changed his mind and decided to fight to the last. The mighty columns of the allies soon crushed all resistance, and the leaders of the peasant army saw that nothing remained but flight; Hofer alone remained and went into hiding.

A covetous countryman, greedy for the reward of 1500 guilders on his head for his capture, betrayed him. He was surprised in his hiding place, dragged to Mantua amid

insults and outrages, and hauled before a court. Without awaiting its sentence a peremptory order from Napoleon ordered him to be shot forthwith. He took his death-sentence with calmness, and died with the courage of a hero.



Andreas Hofer led to execution.

The prophecy he uttered in the presence of his confessor shortly before he died : *The Tyrol will be Austrian again* was fulfilled three years later. His remains were disinterred in 1823 and laid to rest in the court chapel at Innsbruck, where his life-size statue now stands. The emperor ennobled the Hofer family. The youth of Germany has been inspired by his heroic figure, and German poets like Mosen, Schenkendorf, Immermann, etc. have sung of his deeds and sufferings. Even the French pay a wondering homage to his sincere piety, his self-sacrificing patriotism, and his noble sense of honour. *Catholic Encyclopedia 1914 Edition.*

Mutt and Jeff are members of the Fort Lauderdale Coin Club, who like to spend each Thursday morning (*free garage sale day*) at the flea market.

The first of these adventures, which started in February 2003, were printed in the *FLCC Newsletter*. Later they were converted to HTML with color scans of the numismatic finds and posted on the club Internet page.

They still can be seen on www.geocities.com/dewardt/flcc/flcc.html

Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane, Hollywood, Florida

2 REALES FERDINAND VII 1814 NG M and the MUSEUM HOTEL of W. W. LONG in PHILADELPHIA

Georg H. Foerster, Frankenthal, Germany, NI #2584

In the last 500 years Latin American silver has flown all over the earth including North America, where the so-called “Pillar Dollar” was soon accepted as a main payment medium. The “Bust-Dollar” struck in Spanish American mints from 1773 onwards was not only used as raw material for the first production of Liberty Dollars in the United States of America, but was also later declared “legal tender” until 1857.

The smaller fractions of the “Pieces of Eight” circulated as legal coins too, while the 2 Reales (= one quarter dollar) were especially well accepted.

Whether a foreign coin has been in circulation in the USA or not can normally be determined only if the coin has been countermarked. Official countermarks – e.g. to legalize a foreign coin – have not been applied in the USA, but a large number of merchant and privately countermarks are found. As such countermarks did not affect the circulating value of the coin, many persons, professionals and companies, began to use coins as propaganda vehicles for their products or services.

In the last three or four decades of the 20th century these countermarked coins have increasingly attracted historians and collectors.



The above coin surfaced in Barcelona, Spain as lot No. 1249 in the “Subhasta de Monedas del Temps de FERRAN VII (1808-1833)”, which took place on March 29, 2000, organized by the “Secció Numismàtica del Cercle Filatèlic i Numismàtic de Barcelona”. The base coin, 2 Reales Ferdin VII 1814 NG.M. (NG = Guatemala, M = assayer initial Manuel Eusebio Sánchez) is scarce but not rare.

However, the countermark on the obverse, “MUSEUM HOTEL W.W.LONG 376 So 3d ST. PHILA.”, turned out to be unpublished.

On a later visit to Philadelphia the author found out that about mid 19th century a certain William W. Long really appeared as owner of the so called “MUSEUM HOTEL” and that he ordered this countermark for advertising purposes.

This was later confirmed by Russell Rulau, one of the first authorities on United States Tokens, who mentions in his article "Merchant's stamp discovered on Spanish coin" (October 31, 2000, *NUMISMATIC NEWS*) that this logo type has never been reported on a Guatemala two Reales or any other coin.

In *MERCHANT and PRIVATELY COUNTERMARKED COINS* by Gregory G. Brunk, published by World Exonumia Press, Rockford/USA in 2003, this coins appears on page 213.

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NUMISMATIC EXTRACTS FROM SELECTED LITERATURE

Quotes from *FODOR'S – EGYPT 1979*¹

The unit of currency is the Egyptian pound (£.E.) It is divided into 100 piastres. Each piastre is subdivided into 10 milliemes.
Tourist rate of exchange: 69 piastres to U.S. \$1.00.

The following banknotes and coins are in circulation:

Banknotes: 1, 5, 10 pounds; 5, 10, 25, 50 piastres.

Coins: Coins bear the Salah-ed-Din Eagle or the Sphinx on one side and the value and date of issue on the other.

Silver: 1, 2, 5, 10, 25, 50 piastres.

Copper: ½ pst. (5 mm), 1 piastre (10 mm).

Brass: 5, 10, 20 pt.

Coins of several different shapes and sizes for the same denominations are in circulation, and often their values are written in Arabic characters only. These coins can be confusing, so ask [someone] to explain the different coins to you. Some old coins are in circulation and are becoming collectors' items. Memorial silver pieces for 25 and 50 piastres, which have been issued on special occasions, are also in circulation.

¹*Fodor's Egypt 1979*, by Kay Showker, David McKay Co. Inc., New York 1979.

(Submitted by Roger deWardt Lane, Hollywood, Florida)